



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

February 24, 2005

**DEAN RYAN SENTENCED FOR CONSPIRACY AND
BRIBING A PUBLIC OFFICIAL**

TAMPA - U.S. District Judge Richard A. Lazzara, today sentenced DEAN R. RYAN, age 66, to five years' probation, to include six months' home detention, for conspiracy to defraud and commit offenses against the United States and for bribing a public official. RYAN was also ordered to pay \$72,000 in restitution. He pled guilty to the charges on October 25, 2004.

According to court documents, RYAN, doing business as Ryan Construction Co., entered into an illegal agreement with STEVEN A. LaBRAKE, the Director of the City of Tampa Community Redevelopment Services, and PAULETTE LYNNE LaBRAKE, a City of Tampa employee, and others. RYAN would give things including, among other things, services related to the construction of the LaBRAKE's home at 3608 West Corona Street, Tampa, Florida, to the LaBRAKES and, in return, RYAN would receive contracts from the city.

STEVEN and PAULETTE LaBRAKE and CHESTER LUNEY were found guilty on

November 30, 2004, on charges including conspiracy, wire fraud, and bribery, in connection with public corruption-related offenses and federal violations arising from corruption in the administration and disbursement of grants from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The LaBRAKEs and LUNEY will be sentenced on Friday, February 25, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. before U.S. District Judge Lazzara.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General (OIG), the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, (OIG). This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill.